

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A data nullification device for nullifying target data recorded on a recording medium, the target data being made up of a plurality of data blocks, the data nullification device comprising:

a judging unit operable to judge, for each data block recorded on the recording medium, whether the data block needs to be nullified;

a receiving unit operable to receive continuously transmitted data from an external device, and set received data as a new data block; and

a nullifying unit operable to nullify, when a predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to be nullified or when one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches a predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified, ~~the judged data blocks~~ write the new data block to a recording area, on the recording medium, that stores a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, to thereby nullify the recorded data block and at the same time record the new data block.

**2. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1,  
wherein the recording medium stores sequence information that shows a sequence in which the plurality of data blocks were recorded onto the recording medium, and

wherein said ~~the~~ judging unit judges, in succession, the plurality of data blocks in the sequence shown by the sequence information, as needing to be nullified.

**3. (Canceled)**

**4. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1,  
wherein each data block has a length corresponding to a fixed transmission time period,  
and  
wherein a specified number of recording areas which are each used as a recording area of  
a data block are reserved on the recording medium.

**5. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 4,  
wherein if the length corresponding to the fixed transmission time period is variable and  
if part of the recorded data block remains even after the new data block is written, ~~the~~ said  
nullifying unit further writes arbitrary data over the part of the recorded data block.

**6. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 4,  
wherein if there is not a new data block which is to be recorded, ~~the~~ said nullifying unit  
writes arbitrary data to the recording area.

**7. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 2, further comprising:  
a utilizing unit operable to utilize the target data recorded on the recording medium, in  
units of data blocks,  
wherein ~~the~~ said judging unit further judges that each data block which was utilized by  
~~the~~ said utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**8. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 7,

wherein the target data is content data which is transmitted from an external device and recorded on the recording medium,

wherein the content data is accompanied with copy control information showing whether copying of the content data is permitted or prohibited,

wherein said ~~the~~ utilizing unit reproduces the content data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks, and

wherein, only if the copy control information accompanying the content data shows that the copying of the content data is prohibited, ~~the~~ said judging unit judges that each data block which was reproduced by ~~the~~ said utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**9. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1,

wherein the recording medium stores time limit information showing a recording time limit of each data block recorded on the recording medium, the recording time limit being a time limit after which retention of the data block on the recording medium is prohibited,

wherein said ~~the~~ judging unit judges that each data block whose recording time limit is reached needs to be nullified, based on the time limit information, and

wherein, whenever any data block is judged as needing to be nullified because a recording time limit of the data block is reached, ~~the~~ said nullifying unit nullifies the data block irrespective of whether the predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to be nullified or whether one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches the predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified.

**10. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 9, further comprising:  
a utilizing unit operable to utilize the target data recorded on the recording medium, in  
units of data blocks,  
wherein ~~the~~ said judging unit further judges that each data block which was utilized by  
the utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**11. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 10,  
wherein the target data is content data which is transmitted from an external device and  
recorded on the recording medium,  
wherein the content data is accompanied with copy control information showing whether  
copying of the content data is permitted or prohibited,  
wherein said ~~the~~ utilizing unit reproduces the content data recorded on the recording  
medium, in units of data blocks, and  
wherein, only if the copy control information accompanying the content data shows that  
the copying of the content data is prohibited, ~~the~~ said judging unit judges that each data block  
which was reproduced by the utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**12. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1, further comprising:  
a utilizing unit operable to utilize the target data recorded on the recording medium, in  
units of data blocks,  
wherein ~~the~~ said judging unit judges that each data block which was utilized by the  
utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 12,  
wherein the target data is content data which is transmitted from an external device and  
recorded on the recording medium,  
wherein the content data is accompanied with copy control information showing whether  
copying of the content data is permitted or prohibited,  
wherein said ~~the~~ utilizing unit reproduces the content data recorded on the recording  
medium, in units of data blocks, and  
wherein, only if the copy control information accompanying the content data shows that  
the copying of the content data is prohibited, ~~the~~ said judging unit judges that each data block  
which was reproduced by the utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**14. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 12,  
wherein the target data is accompanied with copy control information showing whether  
copying of the target data is permitted or prohibited,  
wherein said ~~the~~ utilizing unit records the target data recorded on the recording medium,  
to another recording medium, in units of data blocks, and  
wherein, only if the copy control information accompanying the target data shows that the  
copying of the target data is prohibited, ~~the~~ said judging unit judges that each data block on the  
recording medium which was recorded by the utilizing unit needs to be nullified.

**15. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1,

wherein ~~the~~ said nullifying unit destroys all parts of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.

**16. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1,  
wherein ~~the~~ said nullifying unit destroys at least a part of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, the part of the data block being necessary to utilize remaining parts of the data block.

**17. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 16,  
wherein the target data is MPEG data including I pictures, and  
wherein the part of the data block necessary to utilize the remaining parts of the data block is an I picture.

**18. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 16,  
wherein the target data is MPEG data including I pictures, and  
wherein the part of the data block necessary to utilize the remaining parts of the data block is a first sector of an I picture.

**19. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 16,  
wherein when ~~the~~ said data nullification device does not have ~~an enough~~ a processing capacity sufficient to destroy all parts of the data block, ~~the~~ said nullifying unit destroys only the part of the data block necessary to utilize the remaining parts of the data block.

**20. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 19,  
wherein ~~the~~ said nullifying unit destroys the remaining parts of the data block within a range where a processing capacity of ~~the~~ said data nullification device allows.

**21. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 19, further comprising:  
a destroying unit operable to destroy remaining parts of data blocks which were not destroyed by ~~the~~ said nullifying unit, when the data nullification device has ~~an enough a~~  
processing capacity sufficient to destroy remaining parts of data blocks which were not destroyed by said nullifying unit.

**22. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 1,  
wherein each data block recorded on the recording medium has been encrypted using an individual encryption key,  
wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted data block is stored on the recording medium, and  
wherein said ~~the~~ nullifying unit destroys at least a decryption key corresponding to a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.

**23. (Original)** The data nullification device of Claim 22, further comprising:  
an acquiring unit operable to acquire the target data in an encoded form;  
a decoding unit operable to decode the encoded target data using a user key which has been provided to authorized users in advance, to obtain the target data;

a key generating unit operable to generate an arbitrary encryption key and a decryption key corresponding to the encryption key, for each data block of the target data;

a data encrypting unit operable to encrypt the data block using the encryption key so that the encrypted data block can be decrypted using the corresponding decryption key;

a key encrypting unit operable to encrypt the decryption key using an identifier unique to the data nullification device; and

a recording unit operable to record the encrypted data block and the encrypted decryption key onto the recording medium.

**24. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification device of Claim 23,

wherein at least ~~the~~ said decoding unit, ~~the~~ said key generating unit, ~~the~~ said data encrypting unit, and ~~the~~ said key encrypting unit are contained in a single semiconductor chip.

**25. (Currently Amended)** A data nullification program embodied on a computer readable medium for nullifying target data recorded on a recording medium, the target data being made up of a plurality of data blocks, the data nullification program ~~having causing~~ a computer to execute the steps of:

judging, for each data block recorded on the recording medium, whether the data block needs to be nullified;

receiving continuously transmitted data from an external device, and setting the received data as a new data block; and

~~nullifying~~ writing, when a predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to



be nullified or when one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches a predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified, ~~the judged data blocks~~ the new data block to a recording area, on the recording medium, that stores a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, to thereby nullify the recorded data block and at the same time record the new data block.

**26. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 25,  
wherein the recording medium stores sequence information that shows a sequence in which the plurality of data blocks were recorded onto the recording medium, and  
wherein the judging step judges, in succession, the plurality of data blocks in the sequence shown by the sequence information, as needing to be nullified.

**27. (Canceled)**

**28. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 26, further ~~having~~  
causing the computer to execute the step of:

utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks,  
wherein the judging step further judges that each data block which was utilized in the utilizing step needs to be nullified.

**29. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 25,  
wherein the recording medium stores time limit information showing a recording time

limit of each data block recorded on the recording medium, the recording time limit being a time limit after which retention of the data block on the recording medium is prohibited,

wherein the judging step judges that each data block whose recording time limit is reached needs to be nullified, based on the time limit information, and

wherein, whenever any data block is judged as needing to be nullified because a recording time limit of the data block is reached, the nullifying step nullifies the data block irrespective of whether the predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to be nullified or whether one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches the predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified.

**30. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 29, further ~~having~~ causing the computer to execute the step of:

utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks,  
wherein the judging step further judges that each data block which was utilized in the utilizing step needs to be nullified.

**31. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 25, further ~~having~~ causing the computer to execute the step of:

utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks,  
wherein the judging step judges that each data block which was utilized in the utilizing step needs to be nullified.

**32. (Original)** The data nullification program of Claim 25,  
wherein the nullifying step destroys all parts of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.

**33. (Original)** The data nullification program of Claim 25,  
wherein the nullifying step destroys at least a part of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, the part of the data block being necessary to utilize remaining parts of the data block.

**34. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification program of Claim 25,  
wherein each data block recorded on the recording medium has been encrypted using an individual encryption key,

wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted data block is stored on the recording medium, and

wherein the nullifying step destroys at least a decryption key corresponding to a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.

**35. (Currently Amended)** A data nullification method for nullifying target data recorded on a recording medium, the target data being made up of a plurality of data blocks, the data nullification method comprising the steps of:

judging, for each data block recorded on the recording medium, whether the data block needs to be nullified;

receiving continuously transmitted data from an external device, and setting the received

data as a new data block; and

~~nullifying writing~~, when a predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to be nullified or when one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches a predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified, ~~the judged data blocks~~ the new data block to a recording area, on the recording medium, that stores a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, to thereby nullify the recorded data block and at the same time record the new data block.

**36. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification method of Claim 35, wherein the recording medium stores sequence information that shows a sequence in which the plurality of data blocks were recorded onto the recording medium, and wherein the judging step judges, in succession, the plurality of data blocks in the sequence shown by the sequence information, as needing to be nullified.

**37. (Canceled)**

**38. (Original)** The data nullification method of Claim 36, further comprising the step of: utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks, wherein the judging step further judges that each data block which was utilized in the utilizing step needs to be nullified.

**39. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification method of Claim 35,

wherein the recording medium stores time limit information showing a recording time limit of each data block recorded on the recording medium, the recording time limit being a time limit after which retention of the data block on the recording medium is prohibited,

wherein the judging step judges that each data block whose recording time limit is reached needs to be nullified, based on the time limit information, and

wherein, whenever any data block is judged as needing to be nullified because a recording time limit of the data block is reached, the nullifying step nullifies the data block irrespective of whether the predetermined number of data blocks are judged as needing to be nullified or whether one or more data blocks whose total amount of data reaches the predetermined amount are judged as needing to be nullified.

**40. (Original)** The data nullification method of Claim 39, further comprising the step of:  
utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks,  
wherein the judging step further judges that each data block which was utilized in the  
utilizing step needs to be nullified.

**41. (Original)** The data nullification method of Claim 35, further comprising the step of:  
utilizing the target data recorded on the recording medium, in units of data blocks,  
wherein the judging step judges that each data block which was utilized in the utilizing  
step needs to be nullified.

**42. (Original)** The data nullification method of Claim 35,

wherein the nullifying step destroys all parts of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.

**43. (Original)** The data nullification method of Claim 35,  
wherein the nullifying step destroys at least a part of a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified, the part of the data block being necessary to utilize remaining parts of the data block.

**44. (Currently Amended)** The data nullification method of Claim 35,  
wherein each data block recorded on the recording medium has been encrypted using an individual encryption key,

wherein a decryption key for decrypting the encrypted data block is stored on the recording medium, and

wherein the nullifying step destroys at least a decryption key corresponding to a data block which is judged as needing to be nullified.